

**EVENING MEETING
BOARD WORK SESSION
January 15, 1998**

MINUTES

The Board met at 6:00 p.m. at The Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on September 17, 1997. Members present included: Sara Fox, Billy Hewes, Joanna Heidel, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker. Members absent included Yvonne Brown and Henry "Bubba" Hudspeth. Others present included State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) staff Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Deborah Gilbert, Wayne Stonecypher, Frankie Walton-White, and Evelyn Webb.

Upon completion of the meal those present transferred from the dinning room to the Ballroom on the second floor. Mr. Walker called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. The first item on the agenda was for the Committee-of-the-Whole to take up finance issues. Mr. Seal, with assistance from SBCJC staff person, Deborah Gilbert, presented several financial items and called for discussion. Required action on appropriate items was deferred to the regular January 16, 1998 meeting. The items covered included the following:

- 1) General Fund disbursements for Fund 2298 for February and March 1998 in the total amount of \$7,145,125 for each month;
- 2) Education Enhancement Fund disbursements for funds 4080, 4110 and 4301 for January 31, 1998, in the total amount of \$6,863,187.06;
- 3) Purchasing approval for 1) GED Testing Materials in the total amount of \$8,458.00, 2) GED Training Materials (videotapes and workbooks) from Kentucky Educational Television that will be used in the Resource Library in the total amount of \$5,824.60; and equipment for the SBCJC Network/DMZ project in the total amount of \$86,141.00 from telecommunication bond funds;
- 4) The funding formula allocation based upon the FY 1998 appropriation using Fall 1997 enrollment figures;
- 5) Audit results from FY 1996;
- 6) Financial statements for funds 2291, 3291, and 4300;
- 7) A summary spreadsheet of board members per diem and travel for calendar year 1997 for 1099 purposes; and
- 8) Spreadsheets that give detail on specific items increased in the Joint Legislative Budget recommendations for FY 1999.

In reviewing the audit results from FY 1996, it was recommended that letters be written to Coahoma and East Mississippi Community College Presidents commending them on obtaining unqualified opinions in their audits. Similar letters have been written to other colleges when they have gone from qualified to unqualified opinions.

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Three upcoming legislative sub-committee hearings were also announced and board members invited to attend. The first two hearings will review the colleges' support and SBCJC's administrative budgets before the House Education sub-committee on 1/19/98 and the Senate Education sub-committee 1/23/98. The final hearing is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, 1/21/98. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss advanced technology centers.

Mr. Walker then called on Joanna Heidel who was assisted by SBCJC staff member Wayne Stonecypher in reviewing the items on the program agenda. The request from Southwest Mississippi Community College to approve a certificate for the Diesel Equipment Technology Program was discussed. Action was deferred until the 1/16/98 meeting. There being no other program recommendations, Dr. Stonecypher stated that the Board would be presented with new vocational program recommendations during the May meeting after conferring with Mrs. Heidel. He also mentioned that discussions with staff from Hinds Community College and the Vocational Division at the State Department of Education led him to believe there was a possibility that approval of a new Telecommunications Certificate Program may be brought before the board in the near future to enable Hinds to start the program at mid-term.

Next Mr. Walker provided an overview of House Bill 1451 and its request for a study of advanced technology centers. He briefly gave a history of the Institutions of Higher Learning's actions in conducting a study of this issue. He also shared with those present a summary of the State Workforce Development Councils' (SWDC) active role in developing recommendations to be submitted as an addendum to the IHL report to the Legislature. The SWDC's recommendations were read and thoroughly discussed. Mr. Walker reminded members that a committee of board members and presidents were scheduled to meet after the 1/16/98 board meeting to discuss and develop any recommendations deemed appropriate for submission to Dr. Layzell, the IHL, and thus, to the Legislature. Discussion of this topic and the board's responsibilities in dealing with this and other similar issues brought about a request from Mr. Walker to ask the SBCJC attorney, Frankie Walton-White, to review provide an overview of the statutory authority of the SBCJC, local college boards, and the Presidents.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.